



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
4050 Crums Mill Rd., Suite 203
Harrisburg, PA 17112



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Contact: Charlotte Staver
(717) 657-6312
Charlotte.Staver@nass.usda.gov

USDA Conducts On-Farm Labor Survey

HARRISBURG, PA – September 17, 2018 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up to conduct the Agricultural Labor Survey, which is conducted twice each year. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 1,600 Northeastern farmers and ranchers.

"Labor is obviously critical to farming operations and data about the use of hired workers helps administer farm labor programs," said King Whetstone, Director of the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. "The data that farm operators and employers provide through NASS's Agricultural Labor Survey helps leaders, associations, and farmers themselves make decisions based on accurate information."

USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor use statistics gathered in the Agricultural Labor Survey to establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

The survey asks participants to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, the average hours worked, and wage rates paid for the weeks of July 8-14 and October 7-13. For their convenience, survey participants have the option to respond online.

"With two specific reference weeks, we are able to publish quarterly data and capture seasonal variation," said Whetstone. "This approach reduces the number of times we ask farm businesses to respond to surveys while ensuring that accurate and timely data are available for anyone conducting research or analyses."

NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results in the November 15 *Farm Labor* report. All previous *Farm Labor* publications are available online at <http://bit.ly/FarmLabor>. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 1-800-498-1518.

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